

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /086 W
----- 082893

R 020758Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4435
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
US MISSION UN NEW YORK 725
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 5026

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, MY
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: MALAYSIA AT COLOMBO

REF: (A) COLOMBO 3200, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4816, (C) KUALA LUMPUR 4792

1. SUMMARY. CONVERSATION WITH MFA OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, A MEMBER OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION AT
COLOMBO, CONFIRMS THAT GOM FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS POLITICAL
OBJECTIVE AT THE NAC SUMMIT CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY
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FEEL WAS UNREASONABLE INTRANSIGENCE BY THE LAOTIANS AND THE
VIETNAMESE OVER ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED ZONE OF PEACE,

FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THEY ALSO FEEL PARTIALITY OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING CHAIRMAN FELIX BANDARANAIKE FOR SRV ENSURED THAT THEY DID NOT GET A FAIR HEARING. DESPITE THIS SETBACK, HOWEVER, GOM PLANS TO CONTINUE TO PUSH THE PROPOSED ZONE AND TO WOO THE VIETNAMESE, GOOD RELATINS WITH WHOM THEY BELIEVE ARE IMPERATIVE TO OFFSET A POSSIBLE THREAT FROM THAT QUARTER. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOOI CHEOK HUN RETURNED FROM COLOMBO AUG 20, BUT, DESPITE DAILY PHONE CALLS, POLOFF COULD NOT GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM UNTIL AUG 30. WHILE LOOI, WHO HANDLES NAC, UN, COMMONWEALTH AND OTHER MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS WITH ONLY THREE INEXPERIENCED ASSISTANTS, IS GROSSLY OVERWORKED, WE ASSUME HIS NON-AVAILABILITY WAS DUE TO CHAGRIN AT FAILURE TO SECURE ENDORSEMENT BY THE NAC OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZPFN) ADVOCATED BY MALAYSIAN SINCE THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION OF NOVEMBER 1971. LOOI'S COMMENTS ON COLOMBO SUMMIT CONFERENCE FOLLOW.

3. ZPFN--MALAYSIAN WENT TO COLOMBO, LOOI SAID, CONFIDENT THAT THE NAC SUMMIT WOULD ENDORSE THE ZPFN AS IT HAD ETNE AT ALGIERS IN 1973. ONLY CLOUD ON THE HORIZON WAS THE LANGUAGE ON THE ZONE IN THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT POLITICAL DECLARATION PREPARED BY SRI LANKA AND MFA WAS SURE THIS COULD BE AMENDED SATISFACTORILY DESPITE A SLIGHT ANNOYANCE THAT THE CEYLONESE HAD NOT CONSULTED THEM BEFORE PREPARING THE DRAFT. (THIS CONFIDENCE WAS EXPRESSED IN HEADLINES IN GOVT-INFLUENCED "NEW STRAITS TIMES" ON AUG 16 WHICH SAID PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN WOULD "PUSH NEUTRAL ZONE CONCEPT AT COLOMBO" AND ON AUG 18 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RTHAUDDEEN WAS "CONFIDENT OF SUMMIT SUCCESS.") SPECIFICALLY, THE MALAYSIAN'S WANTED DECLARATION TO READ THAT: "THE NAC WELCOMED THE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ZPFN'S REALIZATION."

4. INDOCHINESE INITIATIVE--LAOTIAN INSISTANCE IN THE POLITICAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE AT COLOMBO THAT ITS SECTION ENTITLED "THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" REPLACE ANY REFERENCE TO THE ZPFN DISMAYED THE GOM DELEGATION, BUT THE MALAYSIANS WERE STILL CONFIDENT SOME COMPROMISE WOULD BE
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WORKED OUT AS THEY WERE PREPARED, LOOI COMMENTED, TO SUPPORT THE LAOTIAN PROPOSAL SO LONG AS HOSTILE REFERENCES TO ASEAN WERE DROPPED.

5. MALAYSIAN SAW NO OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE THE ISSUE SATISFACTORILY IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, THEREFORE IT AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEPARATE SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE INDIANS, MADE UP OF MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, AND SINGAPORE, ON ONE SIDE, AND LAOS AND VIETNAM ON THE OTHER. (LOOI PARTICULARLY NOTED THAT THE CAMBODIANS DID NOT JOIN THE GROUP

OR SUPPORT THE LAO/SRV PROPOSAL. SEE BELOW.) DURING THE FIVE OR SIX MEETINGS OF THIS SUB-COMMITTEE, THE LAOTIANS, STRONGLY BACKED BY THE SRV, REJECTED DELETION OF HOSTILE MENTION OF ASEAN IN THEIR STATEMENT ON SOUTHEAST ASIA AND REFUSED TO AGREE TO ANY REFERENCE EITHER TO ASEAN OR TO THE ZONE IN THE NAC POLITICAL DECLARATION. THE LAO AND SRV ARGUED THAT THE K.L. DECLARATION WAS ISSUED AT A TIME WHEN ASEAN WAS IN LEAGUE WITH THE U.S. AGAINST THE INDOCHINESE SOCIALIST STATES AND THE DECLARATION IS NO LONGER VALID BECAUSE A "FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE OBJECTIVE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS TAKEN PLACE." LOOI STATED THAT THE GOM DELEGATION WAS FACED EITHER WITH DROPPING THEIR PROPOSAL ENTIRELY OR TRYING TO COMPROMISE WITH THE LAOS/SRV REPRESENTATIVES. (HE DENIED THAT THE SRV HAD OFFERED TO DROP ITS LANGUAGE ON THE SITUATION IN SEA IN RETURN FOR ELIMINATION OF REFERENCES TO THE ZPFN AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE.) IT CHOSE NOT TO DROP THE MATTER BECAUSE LOOI CLAIMED, TO DO SO WOULD HAVE REFLECTED ON MALAYSIA'S "SINCERITY OF PURPOSE."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 5026

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6. WHEN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED IN SUB-COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF LAOTIAN/SRV INTRANSIGENCE, LOOI SAID, MATTER WAS REFERRD BACK TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE. LATTER, HOWEVER, SO TAKEN UP WITH OTHER ISSUES THAT IT FAILED TO DISCUSS ZPFN AND ISSUE WAS BUMPED UP TO FOREIGN MINISTERS WITHOUT ANY DISCUSSION. FONMINS MET AT MIDNIGHT AUG 19 BECAUSE FAILURE POLITICAL COMMITTEE COMPLETE ITS WORK UNTIL THEN. LOOI DID NOT INDICATE HOW MK FELT FONMINS SHOULD HAVE HANDLED STANDOFF BETWEEN GOM AND LAOS/SRV, BUT REMARKED BITTERLY THAT MATTER WAS NOT ON AGENDA, ON PAPERS WERE DISTRIBUTED GIVING RESPECTIVE TEXTS OR CONFIDENTIAL

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SUMMARIZING ISSUES, AND SRI LANKA CHAIRMAN FELIX BANDARANAIKE SHOWED CLEAR PARTIALITY TO SRV. FELIX, HE CLAIMED, ALLOWED SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH TO TAKE THE FLOOR AND ATTACK ASEAN AS A MILITARY BLOC HOSTILE TO THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES AND, BECAUSE IT IS BACKED BY THE U.S., INELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION IN NONALIGNED MOVEMENT. HE DID NOT ALLOW TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO REBUT EVEN THOUGH TANZANIAN CHAIRMAN OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONFIRMED FROM THE FLOOR THAT MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN HIS COMMITTEE. WHEN RITHAUDDEEN FINALLY GOT A CHANCE TO SPEAK, LOOI SAID, THE SRV OBJECTED ON A POINT OF ORDER WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY FELIX. HE AND NGUYEN DUY TRINH THEN AGREED, OVER MALAYSIAN OBJECTIONS, THAT MATTER SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE NAC COORDINATING BUREAU (OF WHICH MALAYSIA NO LONGER IS A MEMBER AND TO WHICH SRV HAS JUST BEEN ELECTED). THERE WAS "MILD"

APPLAUSE AT THIS, THEREFORE FELIX CLAIMED THAT CONSENSUS PREVALIED. LOOI SAID GOM REFUSES TO HAVE MATTER DISCUSSED BY NACB.

7. PUBLIC GOM REACTION TO NAC FAILURE TO SUPPORT ASEAN AND THE ZONE HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN STATEMENTS BY DATUK HUSSEIN AND RITHAUDDEEN, AND EDITORIALY IN THE NST. IN A STATEMENT COMMEMORATING INDEPENDENCE DAY (AUG 31), HUSSEIN EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE LAO/SRV STAND AT COLOMBO, SAYING THAT THIS SHOWED A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING, "IF NOT SINCERITY." "HOWEVER, MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER (ZPFN) TOWARDS REALIZATION." ON AUG 23, THE NST TERMED LAOTIAN/SRV CHARGES THAT ASEAN IS AN AMERICAN CONSPIRACY "INSULTING" AND QUOTED RITHAUDDEEN THAT THESE CHARGES "TEST THE INTELLIGENCE" OF THE NAM COUNTRIES AT COLOMBO. NST ALSO HINTED THAT

LAOS PROPOSAL MIGHT HAVE RESULTED FROM SOVIET PRESSURE.
(IN CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF, LOOI SPECIFICALLY DENIED
THAT MFA SUSPECTS SOVIETS ARE BEHIND LAO PROPOSAL AND
ASSERTED THAT HANOR WAS CLEARLY MANIPULATING THE LAO.)

8. KOREA--LOOI DESCRIBED THE KOREAN TEXT AS SO EXTREME
THAT THERE WAS CLEARLY NO CHANCE OF AMENDING IT WITHIN THE
ALLOTTED TIME, THEREFORE INDIAN REP AT POLITICAL DRAFTING
COMMITTEE PROPOSED IT BE ACCEPTED BUT COUNTRIES BE LEFT
FREE TO RESERVE. HE SAID MALAYSIANS SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE
RESOLUTION AND HAS DIRECTED ITS HIGH COMMISSION IN COLOMBO
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TO FILE WRITTEN RESERVATION. (SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA
FILED RESERVATIONS BUT DID NOT ORALLY CHALLENGE THE
RESOLUTION, HE ADDED.) HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DATUK HUSSEIN
DID NOT FOLLOW THE MALAYSIAN PRECEDENT AT THE ALGIERS
COORDINATING BUREAU MEETING THE DISCUSS KOREA IN THE SUMMIT
PLENARY, PLEADING THAT THE GOM FELT CONSTRAINED TO LIMIT
HIS REMARKS TO A CALL FOR REASON AND DISCUSSION OF
"GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPALS," (I.E. THE NEED FOR THE
NAC TO ENDORSE ZPFN).

9. PUERTO RICO--LOOI SAID THAT RESERVATION WAS ALSO
FILED VIS-A-VIS STATEMENTS ON PUERTO RICO.

10. CAMBODIA--LOOI MADE SPECIAL POINT OF EMPHASIZING
CAMBODIANS DID NOT SUPPORT LAOS AND SRV IN STRUGGLE OVER
ZPFN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA STATEMENT. HE WAS PARTICULARLY
PLEASED THAT IENG SARY ASKED FOR A PRIVATE MEETING WITH
DATUK HUSSEIN WHICH TOOK PLACE AUG 19. (AN INVITATION
TO IENG SARY TO VISIT MALAYSIA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
EXTENDED BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS OF THE
MEETING.)

11. COMMENT. GOM CLEARLY SUFFERED A POLITICAL SETBACK
AT COLOMBO BUT, DESPITE ANGER MANIFEST IN FIRST STATEMENTS
BY HUSSEIN AND RITHAUDDEEN, DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO LOOI,
INTEND EITHER TO ABANDON ITS CAMPAIGN TO WOO THE SRV OR
ITS ADVOCACY OF THE ZPFN. IT ALSO IS NOT GOING TO GIVE
UP ITS EFFORTS TO RETAIN THE GOODWILL OF THE THIRD WORLD
BY REDUCING ITS PARTICIPATION IN NAC ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH
IT WILL NOT BE AS CLOSE TO THE SITUATION AS IN THE PAST
THREE YEARS BECAUSE IT IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE
COORDINATING BUREAU. AS DISCUSSED IN OUR 4822 (NOTAL),
THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE ZONES OF PEACE FOR THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE BECAUSE THEY SEE NO OTHER WAY TO INSULATE
THEMSELVES FROM THE BACKWASH OF GREAT POWER POLITICS.
THEY WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SEEK A MODUS VIVENDI WITH VIETNAM
AND CHINA BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY AND POTENTIAL THREAT

FROM BOTH COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS AND IN SPITE OF STRONGLY
ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS AT HOME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUALA05026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760333-0489
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760998/aaaadgbj.tel
Line Count: 279
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO 3200, 76 KUALA LUMPUR 4816, 76 KUALA LUMPUR 4792
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: MALAYSIA AT COLOMBO
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006